

gall, even though the name would not be recognizable or of certain application were the account of the gall excluded from consideration.

IV. With regard to names applied as in case 2, intended to refer to the then unknown makers of known galls, it is the sense of the Committee that whenever possible, these names should be adopted.

V. The Committee is not wholly in agreement as to whether it is obligatory to maintain names (if otherwise valid) proposed as in case 2; or whether, when they are maintained, the original author and date should be cited, or the author and date of the publication in which the insect itself is first described. The majority of the Committee, however, is against the obligatory recognition of names accompanied by descriptions of galls only, and holds that when these are adopted, they properly enter nomenclature at the time of the description of the insect itself.

VI. The Committee agrees, that whatever may be the ultimate ruling on the last point, there are many practical difficulties in the way of recognizing names proposed as in case 2, so that even were such names held to be available, many of them would have to be rejected as of uncertain application. It is perfectly clear that no rules will absolve an author from using his critical judgment in the several cases that come before him; and after the rules have declared a name available from their standpoint, it may be a long way to availability from the standpoint of practical identification.

The Committee is greatly indebted to Dr. C. W. Stiles, the Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, for a full and luminous discussion of the matters in dispute.

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A NOTE ON THE HABITS OF THE WALL-BEE, CHALICODOMA MURARIA.

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On the banks of the Nile, about 400 miles above Cairo, there stood for many centuries the city of Dendera, one of the most ancient and most famous cities of Egypt. According to a legend a temple was built here in the time of the Ancient Empire, *i. e.*, more than two thousand years before Christ. Of this temple we know little; but about 2000 years ago the Egyptians built

another temple here, which is one of the better preserved of the Egyptian temples.

The old city of Dendera has passed away. The houses built of brick of Nile mud have crumbled to dust, and the sands of the desert drift over much of the formerly cultivated fields. But fortunately the drifting sands buried and preserved Dendera's magnificent temple.

Modern archeologists have excavated this temple. The magnitude of the labor involved in this undertaking can be seen by a glance at Figure 1 in Plate III, which gives a general view of the temple and of the mounds of earth that have been removed from it. The object of this note is to show that, to a great extent, the prodigious work of excavation that has been accomplished is being undone by an insect.

It seems evident to a layman, I know little of Egyptology, that in the study of these ancient temples there are two main lines of investigation: first, the study of the general architectural features of the temples; and second, the reading of the inscriptions with which the walls and the columns of the temples are covered. Of these the second is certainly not less important than the first.

The temple of Dendera has been largely exposed, so that its architectural features can be studied; but the inscriptions on its walls are being rapidly buried beneath a layer of the cement-like nests of the wall-bee, *Chalicodoma muraria*, as is shown in Figure 2 of the Plate.

If future students and travelers are to see these inscriptions, it will be necessary to carefully remove this layer of nests; and as the nests are quite firm in texture, the labor involved will be considerable.

Entomologists are not accustomed to look upon this bee as a noxious insect. The studies of instinct and the embryological investigations that have been pursued upon it in Europe have made it a favorite subject of study; and I have not read of its doing serious injury there. But at Dendera it is certainly a pest; and we are warranted in suggesting means of destroying it.

The most practicable method of doing this that occurs to me is the destruction of all of the nests at frequent intervals so that no bees can develop. The duration of the larval state in this locality at the different seasons of the year should be determined as a basis for determining the frequency of the removal of the nests.